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Sean Patrick Maloney

U.S. House of Representatives

18th District, New York

March 20, 2019

The Honorable Patrick Shanahan
Acting Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Mr. Secretary,

I write today to inquire as to whether planned military construction projects at the United States Military Academy at West Point will see their funding reduced, cut or otherwise redirected in order to pay for the construction of a wall, barriers or fencing along the southern border of the United States. While I appreciate the fact that you have notified Congress of which projects are potentially vulnerable to being cut, we need specific information regarding which projects will actually lose funding.

As you know, the president declared a national emergency in order to obtain funding to build a wall that Congress refused to provide. The national emergency allows the Pentagon to draw unobligated funds from planned construction projects, four of which are in my district at West Point.

Some of these projects had funding appropriated last year and others have previous appropriations. These projects include the construction of a state-of-the-art engineering facility, water treatment plant, and parking structure, and enhancements to the West Point Cemetery.

I firmly believe that taking any funds Congress appropriated for necessary military construction projects threatens military readiness and the will of the legislative branch. But I also have particular concerns regarding West Point, as I represent the area in Congress. Stealing funds from the next generation of military leaders to pay for an expensive and inefficient border wall would be a misuse of federal funds and subverts Congress's Constitutional authority. It would also demonstrate a lack of commitment to West Point and its outstanding cadets, faculty, and staff.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Patrick Maloney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress